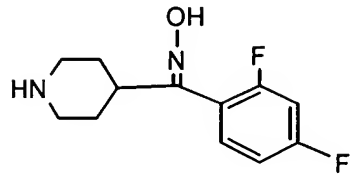
We claim:

1. An acetic acid salt of a compound of formula (3) or (7):



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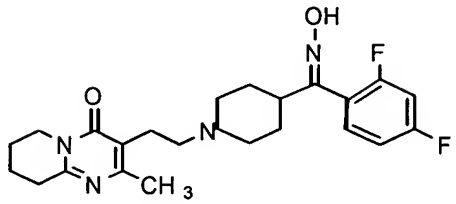


(7)

2. The acetic acid salt according to claim 1, wherein said salt is in solid form.

3. The acetic acid salt according to claim 1, wherein said salt is the salt of said compound of formula (3).

4. The acetic acid salt according to claim 3, wherein said salt contains more of the Z-isomer of formula (3) than of the E-isomer of formula (3).

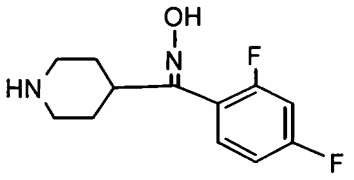
5. The acetic acid salt according to claim 4, wherein said salt is in solid form and is at least 90% isomerically pure Z-isomer of formula (3).

6. The acetic acid salt according to claim 1, wherein said salt is the salt of said compound of formula (7).

7. The acetic acid salt according to claim 6, wherein said salt contains more of the Z-isomer of formula (7) than of the E-isomer of formula (7).

8. The acetic acid salt according to claim 7, wherein said salt is in solid form and is at least 90% isomerically pure of Z-isomer of formula (7).

9. An enriched Z-isomer oxime of formula (3) or (7):



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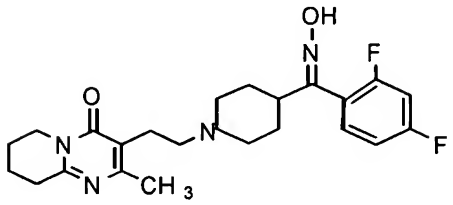


(7)

or a salt thereof, wherein the amount of Z-isomer is at least 80%, based on the total amount said oxime.

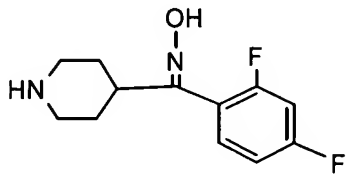
10. The enriched Z-isomer according to claim 9, wherein said oxime contains at least 90% of said Z-isomer.

11. The enriched Z-isomer according to claim 10, wherein said oxime contains at least 95% of said Z-isomer.

12. The enriched Z-isomer according to claim 10, wherein said oxime is a compound of formula (3).

13. The enriched Z-isomer according to claim 10, wherein said oxime is a compound of formula (7).

14. A process, which comprises reacting acetic acid with a compound of formula (3) or (7):



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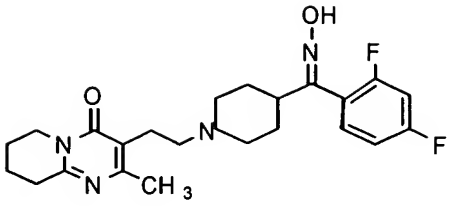


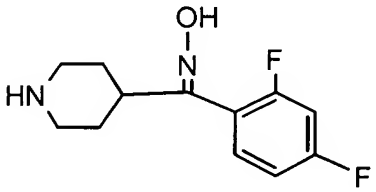
(7)

to form the acetic acid salt according to claim 1.

15. The process according to claim 14, which further comprises isolating said acetic acid salt in solid form.

16. A process, which comprises

providing an enriched Z-isomer oxime of formula (3) or (7):



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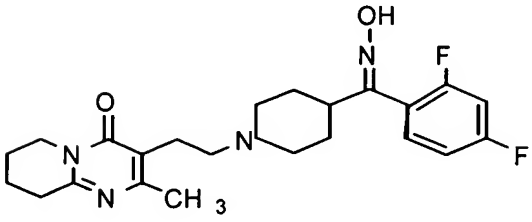


(7)

or a salt thereof, wherein said oxime contains at least 80% of said Z-isomer; and converting said enriched Z-isomer oxime into risperidone.

17. The process according to claim 16, wherein said enriched Z-isomer oxime contains at least 90% of said Z-isomer.

18. The process according to claim 17, wherein said enriched Z-isomer oxime contains at least 98% of said Z-isomer.

19. The process according to claim 16, wherein said providing step comprises preferentially precipitating said enriched Z-isomer oxime as an acetic acid salt thereof from a solution containing said oxime in Z- and E-isomer forms and isolating said precipitated enriched Z-isomer oxime.

20. The process according to claim 19, wherein said providing step comprises forming said oxime of formula (3) or (7) as a mixture of Z- and E-isomers in the presence of acetic acid and wherein said preferential precipitation occurs substantially spontaneously upon formation of said oxime isomers.

21. The process according to claim 16, wherein said providing step comprises heating an oxime of formula (3) or (7) that contains an E-isomer thereof in a solvent to convert a sufficient amount of said E-isomer into Z-isomer to obtain said enriched Z-isomer oxime.

22. The process according to claim 21, wherein said heating is carried out in the presence of an acid catalyst.

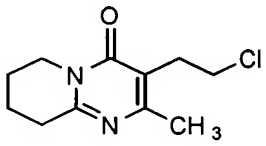
23. The process according to claim 22, wherein said acid catalyst is selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, ammonium acetate, and piperidine acetate.

24. The process according to claim 23, which further comprises cooling and precipitating said Z-isomer from said solvent as an acetic acid salt.

25. The process according to claim 16, wherein said enriched Z-isomer is the Z-isomer of the oxime of formula (3).

26. The process according to claim 25, wherein said converting step comprises alkylating and cyclizing.

27. The process according to claim 26, wherein said alkylating comprises reacting said compound of formula (3) with a compound of formula (5)

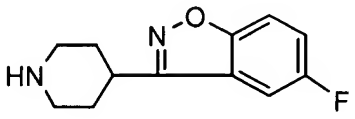


.HCl (5)

to form a compound of formula (7).

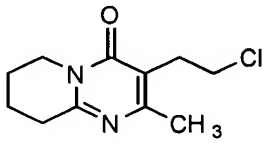
28. The process according to claim 27, wherein said cyclizing comprises treating said compound of formula (7) with base to form risperidone.

29. The process according to claim 26, wherein said cyclizing comprises treating said compound of formula (3) with base to form a compound of formula (4)



(4)

30. The process according to claim 29, wherein said alkylating comprises reacting said compound of formula (4) with a compound of formula (5)



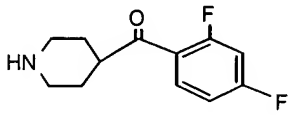
.HCl (5)

to form risperidone.

31. The process according to claim 16, wherein said enriched Z-isomer is the Z-isomer of an oxime of formula (7).

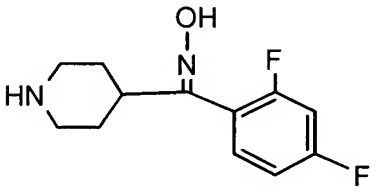
32. The process according to claim 31, wherein said converting step comprises cyclizing said compound of formula (7) to form risperidone.

33. A method which comprises reacting in a solvent and in the presence of acetic acid, a compound of formula (2)



(2)

with a hydroxylamine to form Z- and E-isomers of the oxime of formula (3)



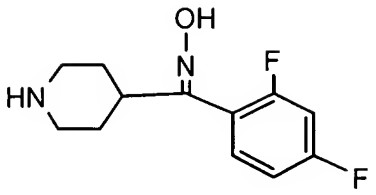
(3)

wherein substantially upon formation of said oxime, Z-isomer precipitates as an acetic acid salt thereof.

34. The method according to claim 33, wherein said solvent is a lower alcohol.

35. The method according to claim 34, which further comprises converting said precipitated Z-isomer into risperidone.

36. A process, which comprises preferentially precipitating an acetic acid salt of a Z-isomer of an oxime of formula (3) or (7)



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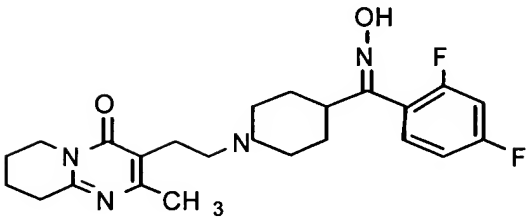

(7)

from a solution containing said oxime as a mixture of the Z- and E-isomers thereof.

37. The process according to claim 36, wherein said solution is based on a solvent selected from the group consisting of water, a lower alcohol, and combinations thereof.

38. The process according to claim 36, wherein said precipitated Z-isomer has an isomeric purity of at least 95%.

39. The process according to claim 38, which further comprises converting said precipitated Z-isomer into risperidone.